

How tags and syntax can add tone to your dialogue:

Highlight the conversational tag in one color and then highlight the dialogue in another color.

“I had to kill him because he knew too much,” said Mrs. Hyde.

Mrs. Hyde confidently assured, “I had to kill him because he knew too much.”

“I had to kill him because he knew too much,” Mrs. Hyde giggled morosely.

“I had to kill him,” Mrs. Hyde worriedly choked. “He knew too much.”

“I had to...,” Mrs. Hyde gasped for air, “kill him. He knew too much.”

Which of the above do you think is more effective and why?